



LENT

February 22, 2026

9:30 a.m.

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:30 am. Our YouTube channel link is available on our website, stmarksandstjohns.org.

We appreciate your financial generosity to support our mission and ministry. Though we do not pass the offering plate during service, you can find it at the entrance of the church or contribute online at stmarksandstjohns.org/give.

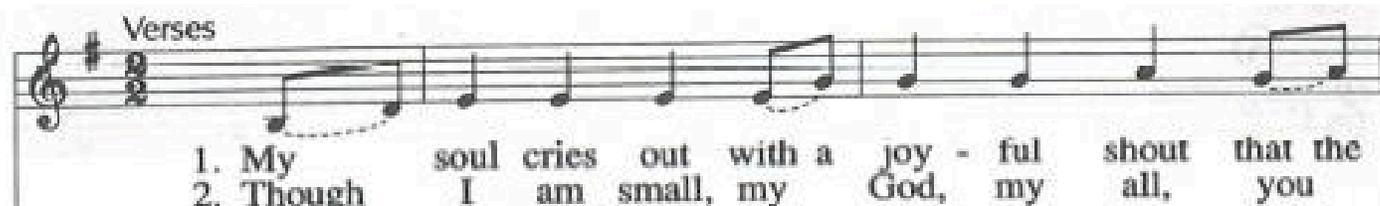
PRELUDE

Instrumental

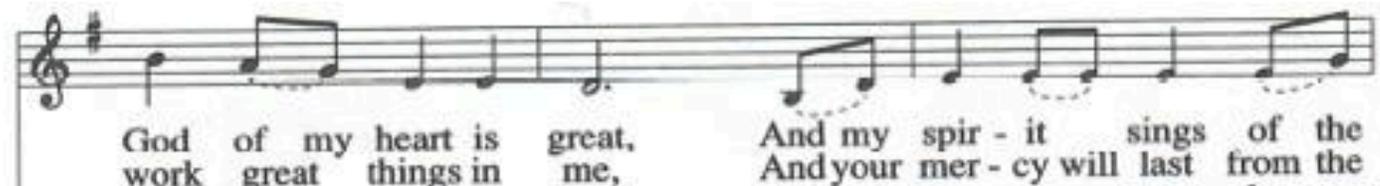
OPENING MUSIC

“Canticle of the Turning”

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you

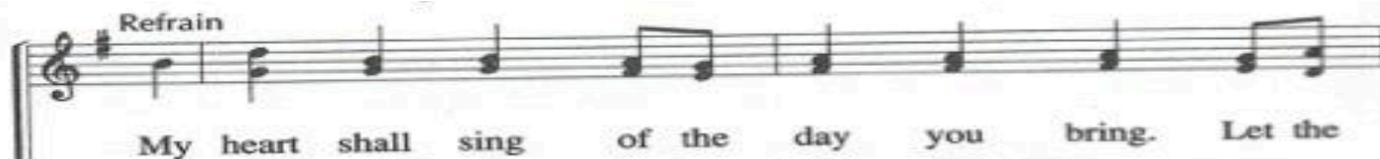


God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the

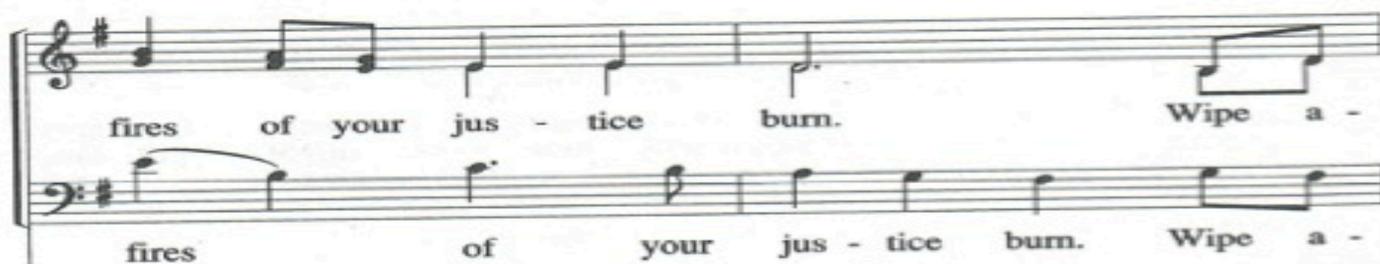


name be blcst. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.

Refrain



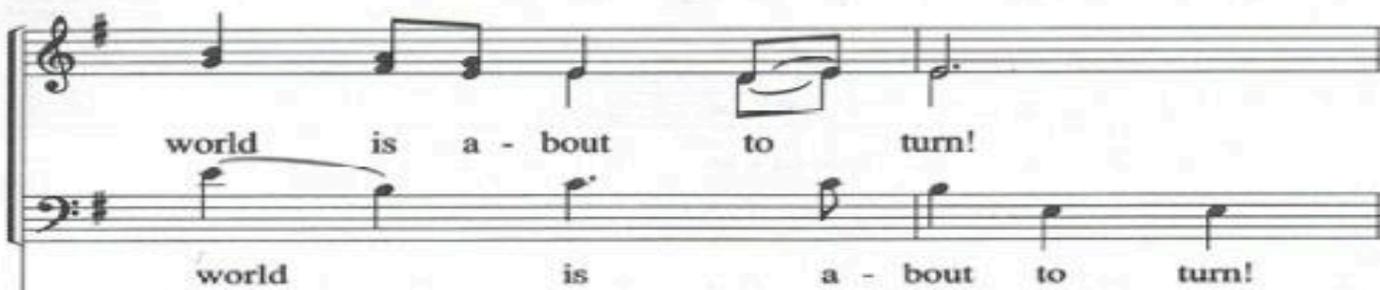
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -



way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the



world is a - bout to turn!
world is a - bout to turn!

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECTS

(a prayer from St. Gertrude)

Loving Jesus: Protect and sustain us with your hand. Open the door of your love that, sealed with your wisdom, we may be free to serve you with joy. **Amen.**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis, the second chapter...

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of

the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’“ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful
will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow,
they shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the book of Romans, the fifth chapter...

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

“Softly and Tenderly”



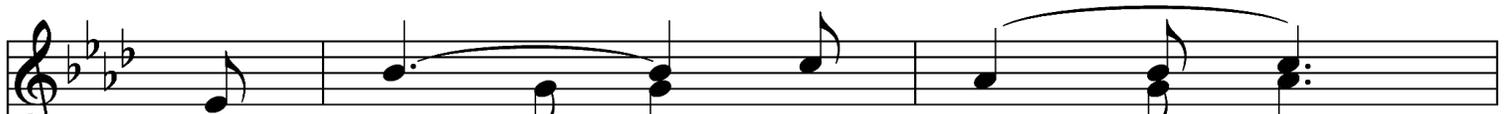
1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,



1. Call - ing for you and for me; — See, on the por - tals He's



1. wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me. —



Come home, come home,



Ye who are wea-ry, come home! — Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home! —

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of
God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

The Rev'd Maria Hartz-Clineburg

CREED FOR LENT

(Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba)

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

PRAYER INTENTIONS AND MEDITATION

Please be seated

As we commemorate this first Sunday in Lent, we invite you to share prayer intentions that are close to your heart. Write your intentions on the prayer boards, light a candle for healing, and let its glow join the prayers of this community as you place it in the sand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Please stand or kneel*

You are within us and among us, O Christ, as the one who is alive forever. In the sorrows and sufferings of our lives you are with us as the one who holds the keys of new beginnings. There is no ending in the world, there is no fear in our lives, there is no despair in our hearts, that your living presence cannot unlock.

Silence

You heal what is broken and make all things new. Give peace to those impacted by fires, floods, and earthquakes.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You created the earth and all it contains. Send rain and snow to parched places so that plants and animals thrive. Direct us to be good stewards of all that you have created.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us as your children and comfort us in our afflictions. Bring patience to the distressed, compassion to the grieving, and relief to the suffering. We pray especially today for...

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, you have united your people on earth with those in heaven through your Spirit. While we live our lives here, keep us surrounded by their love and prayers. May their examples always remind us of your mercy. We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us turn back toward God by confessing our sins.

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name.

Celebrant: By water and the Holy Spirit, God has given us new birth, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and God forgives you all your sins. Almighty God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of God's peace to one another.

After the Passing of the Peace

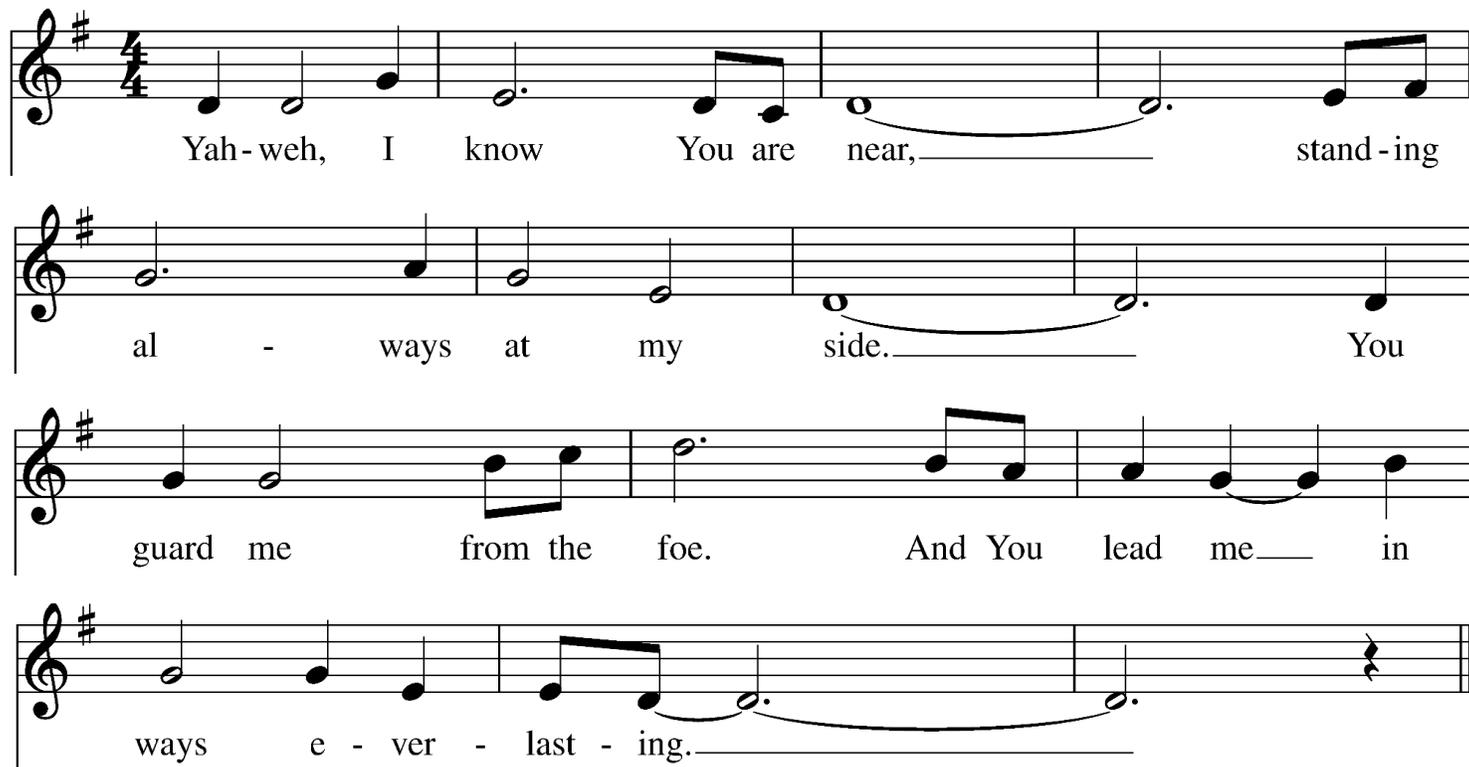
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Eucharistic Ministers gather and process with Communion elements and Offering.

OFFERTORY

"You are Near" (2x)

LEVAS 16



Yah-weh, I know You are near, stand-ing
al - ways at my side. You
guard me from the foe. And You lead me in
ways e - ver - last - ing.

PRE-COMMUNION

"All who hunger gather gladly"

WLP 761



1. All who hun-ger gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na
2. All who hun-ger, nev-er stran-gers, seek-er, be a
is our bread. Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring.
wel-come guest. Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing.
Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for
Here, in joy we keep the feast. We that once were



 days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.



 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal.



 Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see that God is good.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift-up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise

are yours at all times and in all places,

our true and loving God;

through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,

The Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world

and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent;
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,
you delivered them from bondage
and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus
to be human, to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign

and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend
for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us
Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he
broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

**“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

**“Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

And so, remembering all that was done for us:
Christ life, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you
these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mark and John and all you people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

we worship you our God and Creator

in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Special Lenten version below)*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father in Heaven,

remind us constantly that you are a parent to all your children.

Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come,

establishing peace and justice, hope and life for all people.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Make us aware of the needs of others.

Forgive us our sins,

our pride and our prejudices.

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

especially keep our hearts and minds open to see the good in others.

Deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, Just and true,

The power, gentle and fair,

And the glory, filled with the promise of peace.

Are yours forever and ever. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

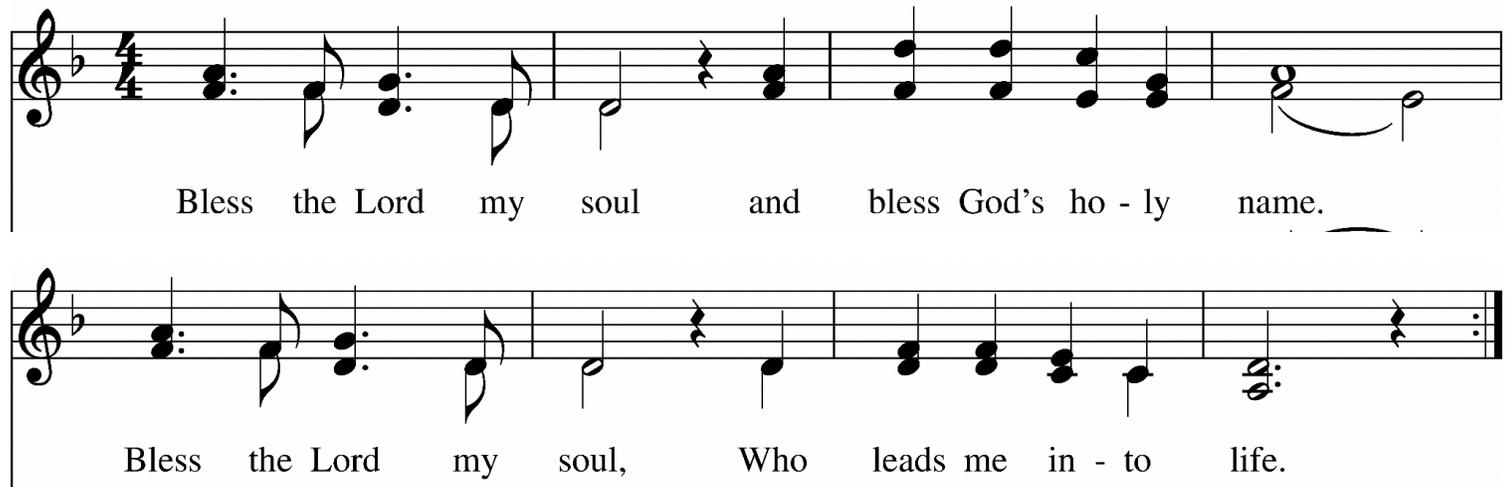
We who are many are one body, for we share in this one bread.

FRACTURE ANTHEM

“Bless the Lord My Soul”

Repeat several times

WLP 825



Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith.

All are invited to come to the table.

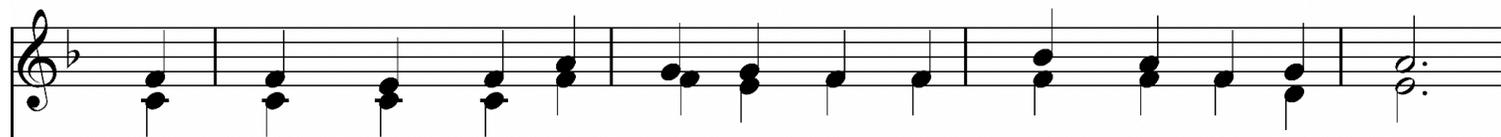
Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

If you would like to receive a blessing just let us know.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Lord, who Through these Forty Days”

1982 Hymnal 142



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, We thank you for feeding us at your table with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. By your Holy Spirit, you have woven us into the great fellowship of your saints—those who have gone before us and those who walk beside us now. As we continue our Lenten journey, keep us mindful of this circle of love and prayer. When the wilderness feels long, remind us that we are never alone, but are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses" who testify to your mercy.

Strengthen us by this Sacrament to do the work you have given us to do: to walk with humility, to act with justice, and to love with the very heart of Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May you never become cynical.

May you never become jaded.

May you never lose heart.

May you never let fear overwhelm you.

May you see light and good in everyone

May you remain open to wonder and mystery.

May you stand firm in the assault of the powers

May you stay rooted in hope.

And the wisdom, love and grace of God strengthen you to be God's hands and heart in this world. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"To God be the Glory"

VF 108



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done! So loved he the
2 O per - fect re - demp-tion, the pur - chase of blood! To ev - ery be -

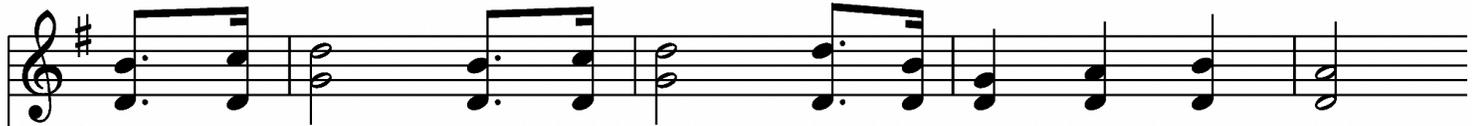


world that he gave us his son, who yield - ed his life an a -
liev - er the pro - mise of God! The vil - est of - fen - der who



tone-ment for sin and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus for - give-ness re - ceives.

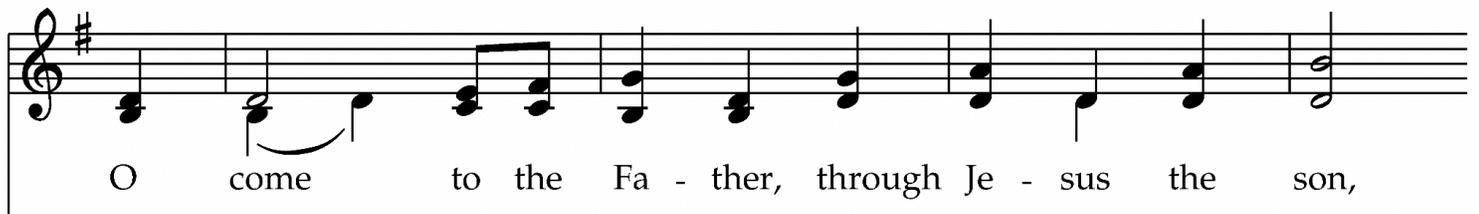
Refrain



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the son,



and give him the glo - ry! Great things he has done!



and give him the glo - ry! Great things he has done!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Leader Schedule

Lectors

Date	First Lesson & Psalm	Second Lesson	Greeter & Prayers of the People
2/22	Terri	Mike	Paul
3/1	Theresa	Nancy R.	Sharon
3/8	Tom	Nancy W.	Steve F.
3/15	Walt	Paul	Terri

Eucharistic Ministers

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
2/22	Tom	Theresa	Mary
3/1	Michele	Deb	Heather
3/8	Dave	Mary Ellen	Bonnie
3/15	Theresa	Tom	Dave

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Michael K. - February 3 Connor C. - February 8 Bonnie H. - February 12 Deb S. - February 13 Linda S. - February 13	Email us at admin@stmarksandstjohns.org for Birthday and/or Anniversaries :-)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Shelf - If you can lend a hand on Wednesday mornings - sign up online at stmarksandstjohns.org/volunteer.

Online Lenten Morning Prayer - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 am throughout Lent. The first service will be held on February 24th. The link will be posted on the website - stmarksandstjohns.org/worship

Journey through Lent with the art of Henri Matisse - From the gray of Ash Wednesday to the brilliant dawn of Easter Sunday, the season of Lent is a journey through color. And so what better guides to this journey than the words of Scripture and the art of Henri Matisse, one of the most daring, influential artists in modern history? **Devotion booklets are available at the welcome table - along with a Lenten Practice Calendar!**

SMSJ Weekly Calendar

February 23 - February 29

Monday, 2/23	<i>Office Closed</i>
Tuesday, 2/24	3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Wednesday, 2/25	10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf 3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Thursday, 2/26	3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Friday, 2/27	9:30 am - Staff Meeting 3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Saturday, 2/28	10 am-Noon - Phi Kappa Psi (RIT) Work Day
Sunday, 2/29 Second Sunday in Lent	9:30 am - Worship with Eucharist

Mark your calendar

March	April
Morning Prayer (9 am, Tues & Thurs. during Lent)	2 - Maundy Thursday (6 pm)
29 - Palm Sunday Worship with Eucharist (9:30 am)	3 - Good Friday (12:10 pm) 4 - Holy Saturday (10 am)
	5 - Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast (8:30 am) New Fire & Worship (9:45 am)

Black History Month & Our Hymnal “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

The Lift Every Voice and Sing II hymnal, often referred to as the "LEVAS," holds a singular place in the Episcopal Church and the broader American liturgical landscape. Published in 1993, its importance lies in its role as a bridge between Anglican tradition and the African American spiritual experience.

Cultural and Spiritual Preservation

The hymnal serves as a vital repository for African American musical heritage. It captures a wide spectrum of genres, including:

- *Spirituals: Songs of sorrow and hope born from the experience of enslaved people.*
- *Gospel Music: The rhythmic, soulful expressions of the 20th-century Black church.*
- *Hymns: Traditional pieces re-imagined through Black homiletic and musical lenses.*

Liturgical Inclusion

Before its widespread adoption, many Black Episcopalians felt their cultural identity was sidelined in favor of Eurocentric music. The LEVAS validated the "Black voice" as inherently sacred and "Episcopal." It moved these songs from the fringes of "special occasions" to the heart of the regular Sunday Eucharist, fostering a more inclusive and authentic worship experience.



St. Mark's & St. John's Leadership

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Ph.D., **Rector**
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

The Rev'd Maria Hartz-Clineburg, **Associate Priest**
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

The Rev'd Patti Blaine, M.A., BCC, **Deacon**
pblaine@stmarksandstjohns.org

Musician

AV Producer

Rob Thornton

Amelia Yousey

Deacon Emeritus

The Rev'd Mike Finn

Vestry Members

Co-Wardens

Nancy Ramsay ('27)
Sharon Kowalski ('28)

Bob Caruso (Clerk)

Terri Censak ('29)
Dave Everson ('28)
Heather Gilfoy ('27)

Diocesan Delegates

Bonnie Hallman-Dye
('28)

Nancy Ramsay ('26)

Ella Webster ('26)

Treasurer

Michele Holmes

Michele Holmes ('28)

Deb Snyder ('29)

Nancy Willer ('27)

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak